(b) if so, how many cases of corruption have been brought to Government's notice;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to amend the Judges Inquiry Act to deal with the corruption in judiciary by amending the statute; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Allegations of deviant behaviour involving acts of corruption and moral turpitude, against some members of Judicial Service of the States and some Judges of High Courts have come to the notice of the Government. However, under article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of Subordinate Judicial Service vests with the concerned High Court. Further, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to article 309 read with article 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the State Government frames rules and regulations in consultation with the High Court. As regards scandals involving judicial officers of District/Sessions Courts, the disciplinary control lies with the concerned High Court. Under these circumstances the Central Government is not maintaining a data on this.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Judges Inquiry Act is to regulate the procedure for the investigation and proof of the misbehaviour or incapacity of a Judge of the Supreme Court or High Court and for the presentation of an address by Parliament to the President and for matters connected therewith. Subordinate Judiciary does not come under the purview of this Act. However, the Constitution (Ninety-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2003 propose to vest the power of inquiry into cases of misconduct or such deviant behaviour of a Judge, other than those calling for his removal, in the National Judicial Commission. The Bill has already been introduced in the Parliament.

Indrajit Gupta Committee on State funding of elections

2337. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the status of the Report of Indrajeet Gupta Committee on the State funding of elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): The Election and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003, introduced in the Lok Sabha on 13.3.2003, which has *inter alia*, also taken into consideration the recommendations of the Committee on State Funding of Elections (Indrajit Gupta Committee) was passed by the Lok Sabha on 30.7.2003 and the Rajya Sabha on 4.8.2003.

Amendments in law of evidence

2338. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to bring forward a legislation for making amendments in the law of evidence;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the proposed legislation is likely to be put in place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) and (c) The Law Commission of India has recently given a detailed report to amend the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. The said report of the Law Commission has been laid on the table of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 1st and 4th August, 2003 respectively. However, no decision has been taken by the Government to amend the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

(d) The Government would need to consider the report of the Law Commission in consultation with State Governments/Union territory Administrations.

Issuance of succession certificate

†2339. SHRI DUTTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the existing rules in vogue in the court of law for the issuance of succession certificate;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.